

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CH KN KS US JA
SUBJECT: CHINA AND NORTH KOREA'S 4-POINT PROPOSAL

1. SUMMARY: CHINESE MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE NEW NORTH KOREAN
4-POINT PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION, BY REPLAYING
MAINLY EDITED STORIES FROM PYONGYANG AND OFFERING NO COMMENTARY
FROM THE CHINESE THEMSELVES, ONCE AGAIN INDICATES THAT CAUTIOUS
PRC SUPPORT FOR DPRK POSITIONS CONTINUES TO BE BALANCED
AGAINST U.S. SENSITIVITIES IN THAT AREA. IN ITS REPLAY OF
THE JANUARY 25 JOINT MEETING HELD IN PYONGYANG DEALING WITH
NORTH-SOUTH REUNIFICATION, NCNA--AS IT HAS IN THE PAST--TONED
DOWN MOST OF THE ANTI-U.S. AND ALL OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE
RHETORIC. THESE AND OTHER MEDIA REPORTS ON THE DPRK SHOW
NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS CHINESE POSITIONS, AND ARE THUS YET
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE NEW
HUA KUO-FENG LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 HONG K 01272 010437Z

2. NCNA'S REPORT ON THE JOINT MEETING OF NORTH KOREAN POLITICAL
PARTIES AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS HELD IN PYONGYANG JANUARY 25
STATES THAT SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS MADE SPEECHES BUT CARRIES NO
TEXTS. THUS, NCNA'S READERS ARE UNAWARE OF SUCH REMARKS AS
"THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS HAVE BEEN ZEALOUSLY INCITING THE INCUM-
BENT SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE TO KOREAN CONFRON-

TATION," OR "JAPANESE AUTHORITIES (ARE) ACTUALLY TAKING PART IN THE SCHEME TO PROMOTE THE PERPETUAL DIVISION OF KOREA AND AGGRAVATE TENSION," FROM THE REPORT DELIVERED BY YANG HYON SOP, SECRETARY OF THE KOREAN WORKER'S PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. THE NCNA ITEM ON THE LETTER PRODUCED FROM THE JOINT MEETING PROPOSING THE NEW 4 POINTS CONTAINS THE ONLY DIRECT MENTION OF THE U.S., DEMANDING THAT U.S. TROOPS BE "UNCONDITIONALLY WITHDRAWN" FROM KOREA--WHICH IS THE OFFICIAL CHINESE POSITION ALSO. NCNA EDITS OUT FROM THE PYONGYANG REPORT OF THE LETTER SUCH REFERENCES AS "THE SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ARE USHERING THE U.S. AND JAPANESE FORCES OF AGGRESSION INTO THE COUNTRY AND HASTENING CRIMINAL WAR PREPARATIONS ON A BIG SCALE BY RELYING ON THEIR DOLLARS, YEN AND WEAPONS." IN FOLLOW-UP ITEMS, NCNA CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM A RODONG SINMUN EDITORIAL JANUARY 28 CALLING THE 4-POINT PROPOSAL A "NEW REALISTIC MEASURE," AND A PYONGYANG REPORT ON KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL.

4. THE CHINESE CAN ONLY BE HEARTENED BY THE APPARENT SIGNS OF COOLNESS MANIFEST AFTER THE VISIT OF NORTH KOREA'S PRIME MINISTER PAK SONG CHUL TO MOSCOW (MOSCOW 1306). ALTHOUGH THE PRC, AS USUAL, DID NOT REPORT PAK'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, IT DID CARRY AN ITEM ON HIS JANUARY 15-23 VISIT TO BAGHDAD, INCLUDING MENTION OF THE IRAQ-KOREA JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES DEMANDED THE "IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA." THE LAST TIME THE PRC REPLAYED MENTION OF THIS DEMAND LINKED TO A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME WAS THE SUMMER OF 1974.

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PAGE 03 HONG K 01272 010437Z

5. COMMENT: BY REPORTING THE ABOVE EVENTS WITHOUT COMMENT, CHINA INDICATES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE DPRK WITHOUT TREADING HEAVILY ON THE SENSIBILITIES OF EITHER THE U.S. OR JAPAN. IT IS A DELICATE BALANCING ACT, AND ONE WHICH THE PRC HAS BEEN PERFORMING FOR YEARS. THE MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE CAME LAST AUGUST, FOLLOWING THE SLAYING OF THE TWO U.S. SERVICEMEN IN PANMUNJOM, WHEN CHINA REPLAYED NORTH KOREAN REPORTS OF THE EVEN WITHOUT, HOWEVER, CARRYING ANY COMMENTARY OF ITS OWN. THE LAST TIME THE CHINESE THEMSELVES COMMENTED ON NORTH KOREA WAS FOR THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS INTO THE KOREAN WAR LAST OCTOBER (76 HONG KONG 12543). THE AFOREMENTIONED REPORTS SHOW NO CHANGE IN MEDIA HANDLING FROM THE PREVIOUS CHINESE POSITIONS ON THE DPRK, AND ARE THUS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE NEW HUA KUO-FENG LEADERSHIP.

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